

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Administration of the Muzrai Department during 1930-31.

READ—

Letter No. 156—51-32, dated 18th November 1931, from the Muzrai Commissioner, submitting the report on the working of the Muzrai Department, during the year 1930-31.

ORDER NO. 1023-34—MUZ. 112-31-3, DATED 27—28TH JANUARY 1932.

Recorded.

2. The report was received nearly six weeks after the due date. The Muzrai Commissioner is requested to obtain necessary information in time from the several Muzrai Officers and arrange to forward his report punctually to Government in future.

3. Government observe that continuous attention was paid during the year to the several problems relating to the better administration of the Department. They are glad to note that the local officers and the various committees of Dharmadarsis evinced much interest in the management of Muzrai Institutions, and that the prescribed services were regularly and satisfactorily rendered in all institutions, both in and outside the State. The existence of debit balance in the accounts of some of the major institutions mentioned in the report, is not satisfactory and the Commissioner is requested to take steps to set this right by improving the resources of these institutions and revising their scales of income and expenditure.

4. *Important events or measures sanctioned.*—The following are the more important events or measures undertaken or sanctioned during the year:—

(a) The work of repairing and restoring the two ancient temples at Belur and Halebid was carried out by the special staff employed for the purpose;

(b) A site for the construction of a building for the convenience of non-brahmin pilgrims at Tirupathi was acquired and plans and estimates for the work are under preparation;

(c) The construction of a Recreation Hall, as an adjunct to the Princess Krishnammanni Sanatorium at Mysore, at a cost of Rs. 10,800 was sanctioned from the funds of the Nowl Krishna Das Charities;

(d) The induction of Brāhmachari Srinivasa Sastry into Sanyasa Asrama, with a view to his eventual succession to the Sringeri Pecta, was approved by Government, and he has installed under the titular name of Sri Abhinava Vidyathirtha Swamigalu;

(e) On the death of the Swamigalu of Sri Majjigehalli Mutt (Kolar District), the succession of his nominee was recognized; and

(f) The Swamigalu of Sri Balehonnur Mutt was granted the honours of a First Day's Bhiksha, with military escort, on occasions of his visit to Bangalore.

5. *Important questions under consideration.*—The following questions, which are under the consideration of the Department require prompt attention:—

(a) Investigation into the affairs of the temple on the Biligiri Rangan Hills in the Yelandur Taluk; and

(b) Improvement of the management of the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple and choultry at Sivasamudram.

6. *Endowments.*—Government are glad to note the endowments in cash, land and other forms made in the year for the use of Muzrai Institutions.

7. *Institutions under the Department.*—It is gratifying to note that the institutions, under the management of the Department namely, the Ayurvedic and Unani College and Hospitals at Mysore, the Sanskrit College at Melkote, the Sri Chamarajendra Veda Maha Patasala at Bangalore and the Agama Classes attached to the Maharaja's Sanskrit College at Mysore, continued to do satisfactory work during the year.

8. *Investigation of Inams of Defunct Muzrai Institutions.*—Government observe that though there was substantial progress in the preliminary investigation of the inams of defunct Muzrai Institutions by the special duty staff, the further steps to be taken

by the Local Muzrai Officers were not prompt or adequate. The Muzrai Commissioner is requested to issue strict instructions for the several cases being pursued to their final stages without delay. There was not much progress in this work in the districts not visited by the special duty staff and the Deputy Commissioners are requested to arrange for the necessary investigation without delay.

9. *Income and Expenditure of the Department.*—The opening balance at the credit of Muzrai Institutions was Rs. 11,60,111 and the receipts during the year aggregated to Rs. 8,74,901, making a total of Rs. 20,35,012. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 12,84,710 leaving a balance of Rs. 7,50,301 at the end of the year. The fall in receipts (as compared with Rs. 9,43,095 of the year 1929-30) is reported to be due to trade depression and the stoppage of Jattras in several places, owing to outbreak of cholera and other epidemics. The excess of expenditure over receipts was the result of investments made on behalf of certain institutions in the new Mysore Government 5 per cent loan of 1935.

10. *Inspections.*—Government are glad to note that the inspection of Muzrai Institutions received adequate attention at the hands of Muzrai Officers, and that the jewels and properties of many of them were also inspected. The Muzrai Commissioner inspected nine institutions. He is requested to indicate, in future reports, the more important points noticed during inspections and the action taken on them.

11. *General.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Lord Hardinge, His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and the Thakore Saheb of Rajakot, visited the temple at Belur and the *bastis* at Sravanabelgola. The Gumbuz at Seringapatam was visited by Lord Hardinge, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of India, the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore and the Sahibzadas of Hyderabad. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore visited also the Sri Rishya Sringeswaraswami temple at Kigga and His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore paid a visit to Sri Dattatreya Baba Budan Darga.

12. Government are glad to observe that the administration of the Muzrai Department continued to be efficient during the year under review.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Financial Department.

Administration of the Excise Department for the year 1930-31.

READ—

Letter No. B. 3—Per. 50-1—30-31, dated 29th October-1931, from the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, submitting the report on the Administration of the Excise Department for the year 1930-31.

ORDER No. FL. 6313-25—Ex. 51-31-3, DATED 1ST FEBRUARY 1932.

Recorded.

2. The following were the more important changes ordered in the Excise Administration during the year under review:—

- (i) The manufacture of Akkibboja which had hitherto been permitted for home consumption only was completely prohibited.
- (ii) As a measure of retrenchment orders were passed for the abolition of the posts of the District Excise Officers at Hassan and Shimoga with effect from the 1st July 1931. Two Excise Ranges were also abolished.

3. *Manufacture of Country Spirits at the Distillery, Bangalore.*—The year 1930-31 was the second year of the triennial contract for the manufacture and supply of Country Spirits by Mr. K. N. Guruswamy who continued to be the Manufacturing Contractor. The buildings and machinery are reported to have been maintained in proper condition.

The supply of filtered water from Hessarghatta was satisfactory. As regards unfiltered water however, which is drawn from the Chikkere Tank, the Excise Commissioner brings to notice that the contamination of the water caused by the flow of sewage water into the Tank has not been prevented and that the question of diversion of the sewage water is still under the consideration of the Bangalore City Municipality.

Government hope that this matter will receive the very early attention of the City Municipal Authorities.

4. There was an appreciable decrease in the quantity of spirits manufactured as well as in that issued for consumption. The total quantity of spirits manufactured in the Distillery was 2,91,016 gallons as against 3,66,526 in the preceding year. The issues to the Depots and Institutions in the State amounted to 2,30,677 gallons and the supply made to the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, was 53,120, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 2,92,924 and 65,773 respectively.

5. *Carriage of Liquor.*—The transport business was managed satisfactorily by the Department as in previous years. The supply of liquors and ganja was arranged for through motor lorries to all the depots in the Districts of Bangalore and Shimoga and to Koppa and Sringeri depots in the Kadur District, the depots in other places being supplied with consignments transported by railway and country carts. The Excise Commissioner is requested to investigate the question of extending the scheme of supply through motor lorries to as many depots as possible with a view to reduce the transport charges and minimise wastage in transit and in depots.

It is reported that ten Kenward Nesting barrels were purchased at a cost of Rs. 650 for transporting arrack to distant depots so as to minimise waste. Government would be glad to have a report of the result of the experiment.

6. *Bonded Depots.*—There were 56 Bonded Depots in the State as against 56 in the previous year. With the extension of the arrangement for transport through motor lorries and the employment of Treasury Gollars for part-time work in minor depots, it should be possible to reduce the number of Bonded Depots in charge of separate mtsaddies and save some expenditure incurred in the maintenance of these depots. The Excise Commissioner is requested to go into this matter and submit proposals in due course.

7. *Consumption of Arrack.*—The statistics furnished by the Commissioner in para 13 of his report show that there has been a progressive decrease in the number of shops during the past ten years and that the consumption in the year under review was the lowest on record. As compared with the year 1929-30 the consumption of Molasses Arrack fell from 2,72,552 gallons to 2,18,786 gallons showing a decrease of nearly 20 per cent. The fall is general and is attributed to economic depression. The Excise Commissioner reports, however, that in some places like Davangere and parts of the Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan and Kolar Districts, illicit distillation and other malpractices are responsible for the heavy decrease in consumption of licit liquor noticed in these areas. The Excise Commissioner is requested to examine the question whether the existing organization is adequate to detect these irregularities and prevent their recurrence and to report to Government in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts concerned what further steps, if any, require to be adopted to improve the position.

8. The incidence of consumption of Molasses Arrack per head of population was 1.9 drams as against 2.3 drams in the previous year, and the incidence of taxation per gallon of arrack was Rs. 11-11-2 as against Rs. 10-3-6 of last year.

9. *Shops.*—There was one arrack shop for every 53.9 square miles as against 52.7 in the preceding year and each shop served on an average 10,732 persons as against 10,483 persons in the preceding year.

10. Sixty-six shops of all kinds were closed during the year of which 13 were arrack, two special liquor, 50 toddy and one ganja shop.

11. *Toddy.*—The number of trees licensed for tapping during the year fell from 3,32,581 to 2,67,498 showing a decrease of 65,083. The revenue derived from toddy was Rs. 39,48,922 as against Rs. 40,05,182 in the preceding year.

12. Government have perused with interest the Commissioner's report on the working of the scheme for conserving and improving select blocks of date groves in the Goribidnur and Tiptur Taluks, with a view to release large extents of date reserves for cultivation. The formation of similar blocks in the Channarayapatna and Arsikere Taluks was sanctioned during the year, but it is reported that the work could not be taken up for want of funds. The scheme is expected to lead to useful results and Government hope that it will be possible to extend it early to other areas most suitable for the purpose.

13. *Ganja*.—Ganja was cultivated during the year in a compact block of 28 acres instead of cultivation being allowed in several strips of land measuring in the aggregate, 46 acres and 12 guntas in the year previous. The average yield was better, being 12.9 maunds as against 7.1 maunds per acre in 1929-30. The year's out-turn was the highest on record. Owing to fall in consumption the revenue realised from sale of Ganja fell during the year from Rs. 4,28,329 to 4,03,723.

14. *Excise Offences*.—The offences against excise and opium laws reported during the year rose from 3,301 to 3,578. Out of these 610 were heinous offences. There were 244 cases relating to illicit distillation and possession of illicitly distilled liquor, the Shimoga District being responsible for a large number of them.

Government note with concern the remarks of the Excise Commissioner that, in spite of the vigilance of the mobile party stationed in the Shimoga and Kadur Districts and of the active work of the staff of the Excise Intelligence Bureau illicit distillation has not received any set back and that the nefarious practices are being carried on extensively, in some districts escaping detection. The subject requires the close investigation of the Excise Commissioner and the District Officers with a view to devise all possible measures to suppress the malpractices.

15. *Temperance Propaganda*.—The Bangalore Temperance Federation organised during the war has been carrying on propaganda work in temperance for some years in the City and the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, by lectures and by exhibition of charts, cinemas, posters, etc. Government have expressed their full sympathy with such movements or Associations working in the cause of temperance and have promised financial support to organisations which have a fairly permanent footing with a well defined programme of work and are not solely dependent upon Government contribution. In pursuance of this policy, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 2,000 per annum has been sanctioned to the Bangalore Temperance Association for a period of three years from 1929-30 subject to certain conditions. The Federation is reported to be doing useful work.

During the year under review, a sum of Rs. 1,810-11-0 was paid to the Federation for providing the necessary equipment such as posters, magic lanterns and cinemas, etc., for carrying on temperance propaganda.

16. *Picketing of Liquor Shops*.—Government regret, however, to observe that "picketing" of excise shops and excise sales as well, was resorted to in a few places and that instances of violence and of the adoption of methods that were not peaceful occurred in certain parts of the Kolar District and elsewhere. Necessary action for restraining these activities had to be taken in the interest of law and order. It is to be hoped that the movement to wean people from drink will be confined to really peaceful methods of persuasion and advice and that demonstrations or acts interfering with public rights will not be resorted to hereafter.

17. *Inspections*.—Government observe that the inspection of Excise Offices, shops, groves and depots was adequate in all districts except Kolar, where the District Excise Officer inspected none of the Range Offices, and visited only three out of 16 Sub-Range Offices.

18. *Financial Results*.—The total demand for the year including arrears under all heads fell from Rs. 78,42,460 to Rs. 76,28,328. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 73,04,273 was collected and Rs. 62,784 was remitted as irrecoverable leaving a balance of Rs. 2,61,271 at the close of the year. The arrears are heavy particularly in the Districts of Tumkur, Mysore, Shimoga and Bangalore. The Excise Commissioner is requested to take necessary measures for the collection of all realisable arrears without delay.

19. *Excise Licensing Boards*.—Out of 39 Excise Licensing Boards constituted in the State, ten Boards met during the first-half of the year and 14 Boards during the second-half. It is reported that the resolutions of these Boards have all been considered by the Department, and that suitable action has been or is being taken in accordance with their recommendations wherever practicable.

20. Government conclude the review with the observation that the Administration of the Excise Department during the year was satisfactory.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Financial Department.